

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1387

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USCOMSOLANT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1694

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OCLR,BB

SUBJ: US NAVY SHIP VISIT

REFS: (A) BRIDGETOWN 618; (B) STATE 217304

1. WE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REFTEL (B) WHICH ADVISES INABILITY OF US NAVY TO ARRANGE VISIT DURING BARBADOS' 10TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, NOVEMBER 30, AND PROPOSES ALTERNATIVE VISIT OF NOV. 16-18, BY USS DAVIS (DD937).

2. WHILE THE VESSEL IS ADEQUATE, AND THE VISIT WOULD BE WELCOMED, I HAVE TO VIEW THE EXERCISE AS MERELY GOING THROUGH THE MOTION RATHER THAN STRIVING TO GAIN THE MAXIMUM IMPACT, OR MAKE THE GREATEST IMPRESSION. EFFECTIVE THIS DATE, WE HAVE A NEW GOVERNMENT IN POWER, THE FIRST SINCE INDEPENDENCE. SHORTLY, AS IN ANTIGUA, WE MUST RESPOND TO POTENTIAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF THE NAVAL FACILITY AGREEMENT HERE. LASTLY, HAVING JUST SEEN THE PARADE OF TALL SHIPS FOR OUR US CELEBRATIONS, IT JUST APPEARS UNSEEMLY FOR OUR GREAT NATION TO BE UNBENDING IN SIGNIFICANTLY HONORING THE FOREMOST SISTER DEMOCRATIC NATION IN THE HEMISPHERE.

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3. BEFORE I AM FORCED TO SWALLOW THE DATES OFFERED, WITH

NO ALTERNATIVE, KINDLY REVIEW OTHER POSSIBILITIES TO SEE
IF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CAN MAKE A BETTER SHOW OF
PARTICIPATING IN THE NOVEMBER 30 CELEBRATIONS OF BARBADOS'
TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE. IN HONORING THEM WE
EQUALLY HONOR DEMOCRACY, AND OURSELVES.
BRITTON

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